

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/718,187

Examiner

Philip B. Tran

Applicant(s)

GIROIR ET AL.

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/14/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 7-16, 18-25 and 27-29.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date Attached.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Philip B. Tran
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Isidore (Reg. No. 56,104), the undersigned, on December 09, 2005. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 5-6 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 7, 13, 19 and 28 have been amended.

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing seamless connection over a communication network for a Systems Network Architecture (SNA) session between a SNA Client and a remote SNA server, said method comprising the steps of:

for each SNA client, defining a configuration table with an identification of the SNA client including a SNA Logical Unit (LU) name, one or more communication paths from the access device to the one or more servers associated with said SNA client, and an identification of said one or more servers including an Internet Protocol (IP) address;

receiving at an access device for said communications network a request from said SNA client for establishing a session with a SNA server that provides services to said SNA client, said request including an identification of the SNA client, said access device being a separate functional device from said SNA server and said SNA client and which intercepts session requests from attached SNA clients and determines to which SNA server among multiple SNA servers to forward said session requests;

selecting a communication path among multiple communication paths within the communication network to access said SNA server by referring to a configuration table of said access device, said configuration table comprising entries of one or more communication paths leading to each of one or more SNA servers for each SNA client that is connected to said access device, and wherein the selected communication path is one that provides access to the particular SNA server as identified by the configuration table; and

forwarding the session request to said SNA server along the selected communication path [[:]] ;

wherein said step of defining said configuration table further comprises the step of specifying a default communication path to access a server for SNA clients that are not identified in the configuration table.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claims 6 1, wherein each server comprises a configuration file comprising a list of SNA clients for which the server provides services, and for each of said SNA clients, a communication path within the communication network between the access device and said server, and wherein said step of defining a configuration table further comprises the step of:

retrieving and consolidating the configuration files of each of said server in a single configuration table locally stored within the access device.

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

13. (Currently Amended) An access device for a communications network, said access device comprising:

a receiving port for receiving a session request from a connected SNA client;

a processing unit that selects a particular one of at least one SNA server connected to the communications network for routing said session request; and

a transmitting port for providing a session connection between said SNA client and said particular SNA server via a virtual circuit connecting said SNA server with said access device across said communications network;

wherein said processing unit selects a default communication path including a default SNA server when a SNA client requesting a session is not identified within a configuration table [.] ;

wherein, for each SNA client, said configuration table is defined with an identification of the SNA client including a SNA Logical Unit (LU) name, one or more communication paths from the access device to the one or more servers associated with said SNA client, and an identification of said one or more servers including an Internet Protocol (IP) address; and

wherein further said configuration table specifies a default communication path to access a server for SNA clients that are not identified in the configuration table.

Claim 19 has been amended as follows:

19. (Currently Amended) A network comprising:

at least one Systems Network Architecture (SNA) client;

at least one SNA server; and

an access device for enabling a session between said at least one SNA client and said at least one SNA server by establishing a virtual circuit with said SNA server across said network, said access device being a separate functional device from said SNA server and which intercepts session requests from attached SNA clients and determines to which SNA server among multiple SNA servers to forward said session requests, wherein said access device selects a default communication path including a default SNA server when the SNA client requesting a session is not identified within a configuration table [[.]] ;

wherein, for each SNA client, said configuration table is defined with an identification of the SNA client including a SNA Logical Unit (LU) name, one or more communication paths from the access device to the one or more servers associated with said SNA client, and an identification of said one or more servers including an Internet Protocol (IP) address; and

wherein further said configuration table specifies a default communication path to access a server for SNA clients that are not identified in the configuration table.

Claim 28 has been amended as follows:

28. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium; and

program instructions on said computer readable medium for execution within an access device, said program instructions including instructions for:

for each SNA client, defining a configuration table with an identification of the SNA client including a SNA Logical Unit (LU) name, one or more communication paths from the access device to the one or more servers associated with said SNA client, and an identification of said one or more servers including an Internet Protocol (IP) address;

receiving, at the access device, from an SNA client a request for establishing a session with a SNA server that provides services to said SNA

client, said request including an identification of the SNA client, said access device being a separate functional device from said SNA server and which intercepts session requests from attached SNA clients and determines to which SNA server among multiple SNA servers to forward said session requests;

selecting a communication path within the communication network to access said SNA server by referring to a configuration table of said access device, said configuration table comprising one or more communication paths leading to one or more SNA servers for each SNA client that is connected to said access device;

selecting a default communication path to access a server for SNA clients that are not identified in the configuration table; and

forwarding the session request to said SNA server along the selected communication path when said configuration table includes the SNA server and forwarding the session request to said default communication path when said configuration table does not identify the server [1.];

wherein said instructions for defining said configuration table further comprises instructions for specifying a default communication path to access a server for SNA clients that are not identified in the configuration table.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

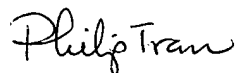
3. Claims 1-4, 7-16, 18-25 and 27-29 are allowable over the prior art of record.

4. This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks filed on 11/14/2005 with respect to the amended claim limitations point out the reason claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip B. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3991. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Philip B. Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2155
December 09, 2005